

Information about your water, drainage, wastewater and solid waste utility services.

Volunteer for Spring Clean!

Spring is the time for Seattleites to gear up and take part in the city's longest-running neighborhood cleanup program.

Seattle Public Utilities' Spring Clean program, now in its 31st year, runs April–May. Join your neighbors and enhance the health and beauty of our city by picking up litter, stenciling storm drains, painting out graffiti, and removing invasive weeds.

SPU provides FREE supplies: trash bags, gloves, safety vests, and waste pickup and disposal.

Get a group together and get started today! Register online at www.seattle.gov/util/SpringClean or call the Spring Clean hotline at 206-233-7187.



The Rainier Beach Merchants Association and the Rainier Beach Action Committee team up to volunteer for Spring Clean.

Holes in Your Clothes? Don't Toss Them in the Trash!

Shirts with holes in them, pants that are ripped beyond repair, hoodies with broken zippers—items like these don't belong in the garbage.

Many organizations across King County want all of your used clothes, shoes, and linens for reuse and recycling. Ripped, stained, and threadbare clothing can have a second life as industrial wiping rags, insulation, and more.



Acceptable for donation:

- items that are torn, ripped, or have holes in them
- items that are stained
- items that are missing buttons or broken zippers
- items that are worn or faded
- single shoes or socks

Items that are wet, mildewed, or contaminated with hazardous materials are not accepted.

Learn where you can donate your clothes, shoes, and linens for reuse or recycling on King County's Threadcycle website: www.kingcounty.gov/threadcycle.

Experience the Cedar River Watershed

The City of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed supplies mountain-fresh drinking water to the greater Seattle area. The watershed is closed to unsupervised public access, but the Cedar River Watershed Education Center offers a number of opportunities for the public to learn about the watershed's natural and cultural history, and go behind the scenes to see where their high-quality tap water comes from. Tour highlights include:

- **Signature Watershed Tours**
Go behind the scenes and see the Cedar River Watershed up close.
- **Natural History Tours**
Hike with experts, diving deep into subjects like wildlife habitat and forest ecology.
- **Cultural History**
Visit historic sites like the ghost town of Taylor, WA, once famous for its clay products.

Registration opens April 1. To learn more and register go to bit.ly/CRWtours.



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May is Puget Sound Starts Here Month

Things we do every day—driving, gardening, washing our cars—contribute to water pollution. Oil and chemicals end up in stormwater, which makes its way into streams, lakes, and Puget Sound. Join SPU during the month of May as we focus on improving the health of our local waters. Here are a couple of ways you can get involved:

- **Puget Sound Starts Here Night at the Mariners!**
Discount tickets (and a free Mariners/PSSH ballcap!) at www.mariners.com/pugetsound
- **Free Auto Leaks Inspections**
Visit one of our participating repair shops to get a free visual leak check and discounted leak repairs. More information at www.fixcarleaks.org

For a list of additional local programs and events, go to www.pugetsoundstartshere.org.



Tips to Up Your Gardening Game

Spring is on the way! Thinking about getting to work in the garden? Before you grab gardening gloves and head out the door, take a look at a few of our spring gardening tips below—they'll help you save time and money, and be kind to our environment.

For more tips and answers to all your yard and garden questions, visit SPU's Garden Hotline: www.gardenhotline.org.

Tip 1

It's Time to Mulch Your Trees

Spring is a great time to replenish the mulch around your trees. Mulch helps keep the weeds away, retains water in the soil, protects your tree from mowers, and provides nutrients to your tree. Here are a few tips to make the most of your mulch:

- Stay away from dyed and non-organic mulches like gravel or rubber that can introduce chemicals into your soil
- Spread mulch like a donut, creating a ring that's about 4 feet wide and 3–4 inches deep
- Keep the mulch a hands-width away from the tree's trunk to avoid decay and disease

For more information on tree care go to www.seattle.gov/trees/youngtreecare.htm or email treesforneighborhoods@seattle.gov.



Tip 2

Switch to a Smart Timer (get a \$100 rebate!)

Want to save money on your water bill while maintaining a beautiful garden? Replace your existing sprinkler system timer with a new WaterSense smart timer. These smart timers:

- Adjust watering runtimes to save water on cloudy or cooler days
- Stop watering when it's raining
- Connect to the internet and send you notifications on a mobile phone app (*not all smart timers have this feature*)

SPU customers who replace their existing timer with a smart timer may be eligible for \$100 rebate. For more information go to www.savingwater.org.



Tip 3

Commit to Natural Lawn Care

Pesticides and fertilizers pollute our lakes and streams. Fortunately, it's easy to take care of your lawn the natural way!

Watch our Natural Lawn Care videos at www.gardenhotline.org.

FREE Auto Leaks Classes

Protecting our waters doesn't stop at the end of May. You can participate in SPU's FREE Auto Leaks Workshops year-round. You'll have your car inspected by a certified mechanic and learn how to spot and fix leaks.

Upcoming classes: Saturdays, April 15 and May 13. Register at www.seattle.gov/util/autoleaks.



\$100 Rebate!

High water bill? Your toilet could be the culprit. Replace your old toilet with one that uses less water—you may be surprised by the money you save! SPU customers who replace their old toilet with a new model (1.1 gallons per flush or less) may be eligible for a **\$100 rebate**.

Learn more at www.savingwater.org/rebates or call 206-615-1282.

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